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ABSTRACT

Undergraduate enrollment patterns among state colleges and universities changed dramatically between 1969 and 1974, including large differences in enrollment growth between rural and urban institutions and among various regions of the country. Overall enrollment patterns reflected logical reactions of students and their parents to college financing problems. The cost of college attendance rose and large numbers of students chose lower-cost educational opportunities. This study, based on information from 247 state colleges and universities, also found that institutions that charged low tuitions but lost undergraduate enrollment were usually located in rural areas where per capita income was considerably below the statewide average. Few institutions in urban areas lost enrollment. No urban institution charging annual tuition and fees lower than $200 in 1974 experienced an enrollment decline, whereas some charging over $600 a year did. The fact that cost is playing an increasingly significant roll in enrollment patterns is supported by census data on median family income increases. (Author/LBH)

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Patterns in Undergraduate Enrollment Growth Among State Colleges and Universities

1969-1974

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

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July, 1976

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"If women attended college at the same rate as men, if low income people could attend at the same rates as high income people, if attendance rates were as high throughout the country as they are in leading states, enrollment would probably be increased by at least 6 or 7 million."

Howard Bowen (1974)

Highlights

Between 1969 and 1974, undergraduate enrollment patterns at 247 state colleges and universities reflected cost of attendance problems faced by students and their families.

1. Students sought lower cost education opportunities close to home.

2. Urban institutions grew faster than rural institutions. Institutions serving commuter and part-time students grew the most rapidly. Institutional missions did not differentiate among enrollment losers and gainers.

3. Part-time enrollments increased sharply. As a percent of full-time-equivalent enrollment, the rate of increase was 12, 25, 45 and 49 percent respectively in the East, West, Midwest and South.

4. Institutions which lost enrollment almost always were located in counties where per capita income was significantly below the state average.

5. Among urban institutions there was a clear correlation between tuition and enrollment. Among rural institutions, state and local per capita income differences were reflected in enrollment rates.

6. Nationally, in all kinds of postsecondary institutions, the average age of college students increased. The 18 to 19 year old enrollment remained constant while 24 to 34 year old enrollment increased sharply. Among older students, more than two-thirds attended college part-time.

7. Institutions in states which previously exported many students experienced large enrollment increases (the eastern states experienced a 44 percent increase); while institutions in states which previously imported many students grew much more slowly (enrollment in the midwestern states increased only 2 percent). The average institutional growth rate was 13 percent.

8. Attendance declined most sharply among students from low- and middle-income families. In constant dollars, between 1969 and 1973, the average income gap between all families with 18-24 year old dependent members enrolled full-time in all American colleges, and all American families with 18-24 year old dependents widened from $2,366 to $2,781.

Introduction

The following is an analysis of undergraduate enrollment patterns among 247 state colleges and universities which are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. All of the members are four-year institutions granting baccalaureate degrees. Many offer graduate programs and a growing number offer less-than-baccalaureate programs. The institutions are publicly supported and are located in 47 states and two territories. The period of investigation began in 1969 and ended in 1974.

Method of Analysis

A survey was sent to 320 institutions belonging to AASCU; 247 institutions returned complete surveys. The survey requested data on undergraduate enrollments, tuition and fee rates, institutional location, and student characteristics. The data then were explored in order to identify nationwide and regional undergraduate enrollment patterns. The patterns were explained with the aid of information drawn from other sources, mainly government studies and scholarly research. The combined data strongly suggest that factors related to cost of attendance best explain extensive enrollment changes among state colleges and universities in recent years. Institutional enrollments reflected the behavior of students seeking lower cost educational opportunities close to home.

Findings

Undergraduate enrollment patterns among the 247 AASCU member institutions changed dramatically between 1969 and 1974.[1] While the institutions experienced an overall 13.2 percent increase in undergraduate full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments, a substantial percentage of rural institutions lost enrollments, but a high percentage of urban institutions (defined as being within 30 miles of city/county areas with population over 100,000) experienced enrollment increases.[2] During the period studied, the proportion of FTE enrollments accounted for by part-time students increased 12, 25, 45 and 49 percent in the East, West, Midwest and South respectively.[3] Most institutions serving primarily commuter students grew more than 40 percent.[4] While rates of enrollment growth varied among different types of institutions, grouped according to the Carnegie Classification Structure, rural or urban location largely differentiated enrollment losers from gainers.[5]

Enrollments in midwestern and western states increased 2.3 percent and 6.3 percent respectively. This contrasted sharply with enrollment increases of 43.8 percent and 21.8 percent in eastern and southern states.[6] The urban/rural factor to some extent explains the differences in enrollment growth among the regions. Midwestern, western and southern states contained proportionately greater numbers of rural institutions than eastern states;[7] however, additional differences existed.

Several southern and most eastern states historically exported large percentages of high school graduates to institutions in other states.* Also, the college building era began later and continued up to the present in many of these states. By contrast, midwestern and western states imported large percentages of high school graduates from other states, while maintaining high college participation rates among in-state high school graduates;[8] and the institution building period ended by 1970 in most of these states.

A logical explanation for regional differences in enrollment growth is that regional enrollment reflects a nationwide close to home college attendance trend.[9] Many eastern and southern states, which traditionally exported students to midwestern and western states, recently built or upgraded public four-year institutions, thus expanding close to home access. Institutions in these states experienced large enrollment increases.

Conversely, many midwestern and western institutions probably experienced the effects of eastern students attending institutions close to home through declining out-of-state enrollments.[10]

U.S. Census Bureau data also document major changes in college attendance patterns among students. These characteristics help to explain enrollment patterns experienced by the surveyed institutions. U.S. Census reports indicate that since 1969 there has been a marked decline in the propensity of 18 to 19 year olds to enroll in any college. Between 1970 and 1974 there was virtually no increase in the number of 18 to 19 year olds enrolled, yet high school graduating classes increased roughly 5 percent during that period.[11]

By contrast, there was a sharp increase in enrollment among students aged 24 to 34. Enrollments in this age group increased by 63 percent between 1970 and 1974. By more than a two-to-one majority, these older students enrolled as part-time students.[12]

There was a steep decline in the number of families with dependent students enrolled full-time. Between 1969 and 1973, the number of families with dependent 18 to 24 year olds enrolled full-time declined at a rate of 13.8 percent.[13]

There are several possible explanations for the enrollment changes: the end of the draft and the Vietnam War, disillusionment with higher education, and a depressed job market. However, most factors indicate that students and their families are having increased difficulty meeting the costs of residential college attendance.

*Among southern states, enrollment increases significantly outdistanced the national average in only four states: Florida, Maryland, South Carolina and Virginia. All of these states, except Florida, exported more than 20 percent of their college going high school graduates to other states in 1968.

Cost related factors, such as family income, sibling overlap, and institutional location, can logically explain enrollment patterns. In addition, the survey data suggest a relationship among tuition charges, family income, and enrollment levels.

As discussed earlier, U.S. Census data documented an overall 13.8 percent decline in full-time attendance rates as reflected by the number of families with dependents enrolled full-time between 1969 and 1973. Among families earning less than $15,000 annually (figures were in constant dollars), there was a 20 percent decline in the rate of attendance. The steepest rates of decline occurred among families earning less than $5,000 annually. An 8.2 percent decline in the rate of attendance also occurred among families earning more than $15,000 annually.[14]

The above, together with the results of the First National City Bank of New York study showing that 12.8 percent of American families, most of them in the low-income category, had members or friends who were prevented from attending college because of cost.[15]

The fact that higher education increasingly became limited to the more affluent between 1969 and 1973 also is reflected in a 7.6 percent increase (from $13,638 to $14,679) in the constant dollar median incomes of families with dependent students enrolled full-time. During the same period, the median income of all families with dependent children increased only 5.5 percent. The constant dollar gap between families with dependents enrolled full-time in college and all families with college -aged dependents widened from $2,366 in 1969 to $2,781 in 1973, a 17 percent increase.

Presumably, some students from low-income and middle-income families partially compensated for the loss of ability to pursue full-time courses of study by enrolling part-time. However, the New York study indicates that a sizable number of young people abandoned college aspirations altogether.

A demographic phenomenon, recently labeled by David Goldberg and Albert Anderson at the University of Michigan Population Studies Center as "sibling overlap", also increased the pressures on family budgets. The effects of this phenomenon can explain differing enrollment patterns for students affected by it.[16] Sibling overlap required ever increasing proportions of current family income to be allocated to meet college going expenses because the number of college age siblings in the average family increased, while the space intervals between siblings decreased.

The sibling overlap phenomenon began to take hold around 1968. The average family started in the 1950's had three children at less than two-year intervals. Immediately after World War II the average family was closer to having two children at four-year intervals. Around 1968 the first wave of children enrolled in college. By 1970 the second wave began and families had to maintain double college bills four more years. The effects of the sibling overlap phenomenon will not begin to lessen until the early 1980's.

The sibling overlap challenges reasoning that the end of the Vietnam War primarily explains a dramatic decline in the college going rates of high school graduates. In fact, enrollment rates declined mainly among those affected by sibling overlap. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that the percent of high school graduates going to two-and four-year colleges increased from 45 percent in 1963 to 55 percent in 1968, and then declined to 46 percent again by 1974.[17] However, the number of young men in military service may have affected enrollments after high school. But, the demand for college education among students 24 year old and older (i.e. those unaffected by sibling overlap) continued to accelerate, according to the 1962 to 1968 growth curve. As indicated earlier, Census data show that between 1970 and 1974, enrollments of students between ages of 24 and 34 increased 63 percent.

Sibling overlap also may explain why attendance rates declined while tuitions increased only slightly faster than the rate of inflation between 1969 and 1974. As

the overlap phenomenon took effect, larger proportions of family budgets were required to cover college costs. Thus, in reality, the cost of college attendance increased faster for families (especially among those whose incomes precluded eligibility for student aid) than the rate of inflation and the rate of tuition increases.

In light of the above, it is not surprising that full-time attendance declined in many cases between 1969 and 1974. As students increasingly attended institutions close to home, because of the high cost of residential attendance, rural institutions became increasingly dependent on students from surrounding areas. The families of these students had to counter the effects of urban-rural income differences and the sibling overlap phenomenon. Also, since 1969, median family incomes have not kept pace with inflation;[18] while the cost of attendance has exceeded the rate of inflation in many instances.[19]

Rural institutions, being geographically more dependent on relatively expensive residential attendance, were hit harder by increasing transportation costs, other inflation, sibling overlap, and probably also by a lack of local job opportunities for students. It is not surprising that rural institutions were more likely than urban institutions to lose enrollment in the period between 1969 and 1974, even at several institutions charging relatively low tuitions.

Differences between per capita incomes in counties in which institutions losing enrollment were located (mostly rural institutions), and state average per capita incomes essentially equalized the cost of attending institutions, regardless of tuition differences. This is illustrated in the following table:

Table I

Institutions which lost enrollment: Average local per capita income compared to average state per capita income*

Source: AASCU Survey data and *Survey of Current Business* data April 1975.

Institutions with 1974 Tuitions and Fees in the Following Ranges				
Nation	**$0-200**	**$200-400**	**$400-600**	**$600+**
Percent difference in per capita income	N/A Urban	−13.3	−14.4	− 6.3
Dollar difference in per capita income	N/A Urban	−$526	−$599	−$284
Midwestern States				
Percent difference in per capita income	N/A	−23.1	−13.1	− 4.7
Dollar difference in per capita income	N/A	−$925	−$630	−$212

**Local per capita income = average per capita income in counties in which institutions located.*
State per capita income = average state-wide per capita income.
Figures aggregated nationally and regionally.

The effects of tuition rates on enrollment growth are very difficult to assess because a great many other factors potentially influence enrollment. Among such factors are location, high school graduating class size, traditional rates of college attendance, total cost of attending colleges (as differentiated from tuition alone), non-resident tuition, numbers of two- and four-year institutions opening or closing, and state population growth and migration.

The above factors were assessed as far as possible with the aid of available data, and each factor could have had some effect on enrollment. However, overall, tuition and fee rate generally explained enrollment patterns, especially when variations in per capita income are considered.

Tuition and enrollment parallels are particularly clear among urban institutions.

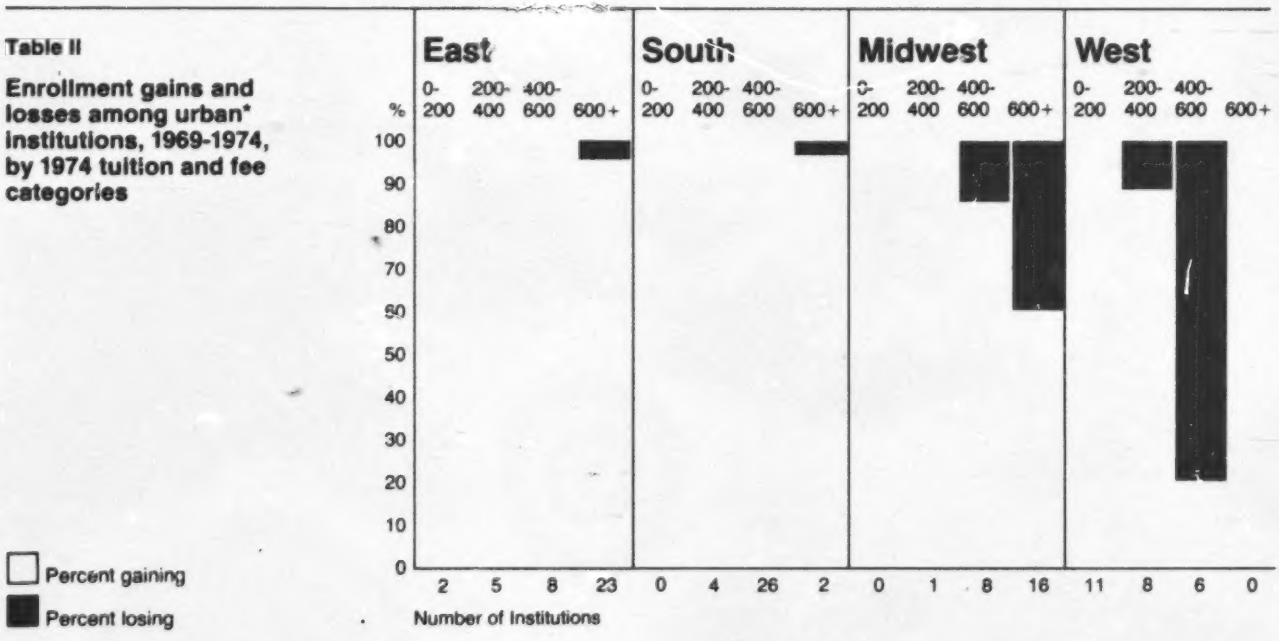
No urban institution charging annual tuition and fees lower than $200 in 1974 experienced an enrollment decline between 1969 and 1974. Among institutions charging more than $600, some institutions in every region experienced enrollment declines. In every region there was a clear parallel between tuition and fee rates and probability of enrollment decline.

Among rural institutions the tuition-enrollment correlation was less clear. In the eastern region the parallel holds; except in West Virginia where two rural institutions charging tuition and fees in the $200-$400 range lost enrollment, possibly as a result of a 2.7 percent decline in the size of state high school graduating classes.

In the southern states enrollment and tuition correlated up to the $600 and over category. In this category there were only five rural institutions, four of which

Table II

Enrollment gains and losses among urban* institutions, 1969-1974, by 1974 tuition and fee categories



*Institutions within 30 miles of city/county with population over 100,000.

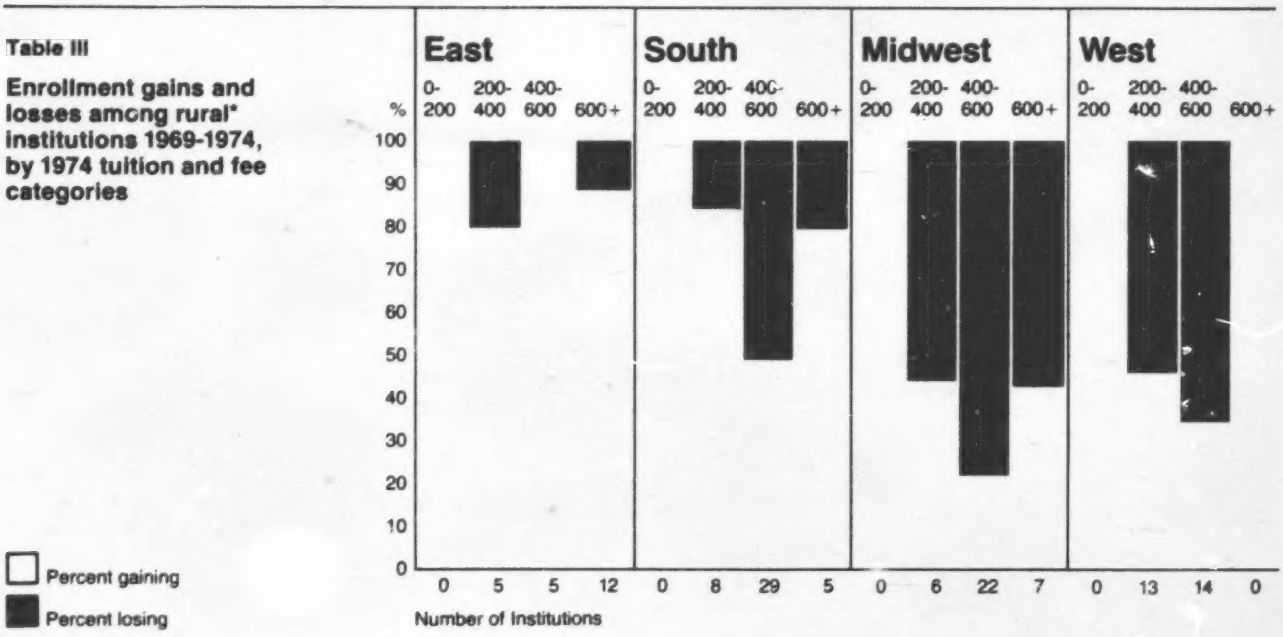
were located in Virginia, a state which recently upgraded and expanded its public institutions. The fifth institution, located in North Carolina, was formerly a private institution whose tuition and fee charges were reduced sharply in recent years.

In the midwestern states over 50 percent of all rural institutions lost enrollment, regardless of tuition and fee rates charged. A probable explanation for the apparent evenness of decline can be seen by referring back to Table 1. Average per capita income differences between counties in which institutions were located and states ranged from $-925 among institutions charging tuitions in the $200-$400 category to $-212 in the over $600 category. On the basis of this comparison, the institutions charging the highest tuitions were least expensive for local people to attend.

Among the western states the tuition-enrollment parallel held.

Table III

Enrollment gains and losses among rural* institutions 1969-1974, by 1974 tuition and fee categories



*Institutions more than 30 miles from city/county with population over 100,000.

Conclusion

While there does appear to be some parallel between tuition and enrollment, the clearest parallel is between total cost of attendance and enrollment during the period 1969 to 1974. In fact, overall enrollment patterns reflected logical reactions of students and their parents to college financing problems. The cost of college attendance rose and larger numbers of students chose lower cost educational opportunities. As a result, the least expensive forms of higher education grew the most. Low cost public two-year institutions grew very fast, as did public four-year institutions serving primarily commuter students; and part-time enrollments grew much faster than full-time enrollments. Institutions close to urban centers, regardless of type, generally grew rapidly, while many rural institutions, more dependent on residential attendees, lost enrollment. As with housing, energy, food, and transportation in recent years, old standards became increasingly difficult to maintain. But, those with higher educational aspirations generally did not decide to do without; instead, aspirations shifted toward less expensive alternatives.

Enrollment patterns among four-year state colleges and universities raise many questions. Among them, do the patterns indicate a permanent change in college going behavior, or do they merely represent a short-term phenomenon associated with an economically and politically unstable time? Can the patterns be explained as well by factors unrelated to costs? Do the patterns tell us anything about future enrollment trends? Available data cannot answer the first question and can only suggest answers to the second and third questions.

The Carnegie Council publication *More Than Survival* lists the end of the draft, high cost of attendance, changes in the job market, and deferred admissions as factors influencing the decline of enrollment rates among traditional college age youth. But as to order of influence, the Council stated, "Unfortunately, there are no good survey data that shed light on the relative importance of the various factors that have influenced this decline." This analysis sought to interpret institutional enrollment patterns rather than weigh alternative explanations. These patterns would be difficult to explain on any basis other than cost-of-attendance. For example, how can other factors explain the finding that students preferred urban institutions, regardless of type? The factors listed by Carnegie Council are undoubtedly important, however, among state colleges and universities, cost-of-attendance seems to best explain enrollment patterns.

As for the future, the size of the nation's high school graduating class is projected to increase by only 1 percent by 1980, and then decline in size. Previously cited ACE data showing a sharp increase in the proportion of student enrollment accounted for by older, part-time students (even the full-time portion of older student enrollments have more than compensated for slowed growth in enrollments among traditional college age youth) suggest that if this trend continues, state college enrollments may increase despite the reduced pool of traditional college age persons. Continuation of this trend also may mask, as it has in recent years, financial difficulties that many students face in attempting to secure full-time higher educational opportunities. If, however, the older student trend does not continue, the data suggest that student cost-of-attendance problems will be reflected more clearly in institutional enrollment patterns.

Postscript

This study was limited in time to the years 1969 through 1974. In 1975, enrollments at public and private four-year institutions increased 4.3 percent (4.8 percent at public four-year institutions) according to a study recently conducted by Dr. Garland G. Parker for the American College Testing Program.[20] This represents the largest single year increase since 1969.

Dr. Parker's assessment of factors responsible for the 1975 enrollment increase support several findings reported in this study. He observes that part-time enrollments continued to increase faster than full-time enrollments. Urban institutions experienced greater than average enrollment increases. The growth trend in enrollments among older students continued.

Increased older student enrollments were reflected in a 7.4 percent increase in the number of college freshmen since 1974. Between 1974 and 1975 there was only a 0.3 percent gain in the number of high school graduates and a 0.8 percent increase in the estimated number of 18-year-olds. According to Dr. Parker, "It is clear that the historic pool of potential first-time degree credit students, while supportive of a modest rise in enrollment, was inadequate to provide numbers sufficient to so large an increase." In addition to factors such as increased enrollments among older and part-time students, increased enrollments among women and veterans and increased retention of students already enrolled, he suggests that the desire for job security related to the current recession also had a positive impact.

For the future Dr. Parker sounds a note of caution: "If institutions of higher education rely primarily upon secondary school graduates for their incoming students, it is almost inevitable that enrollments will decelerate in the remaining 1970s, decline slowly in the early 1980s and then fall off more precipitously in the later 1980s."

Dr. Parker does not comment on the relationship of cost factors to enrollment, but his cautionary note about the future raises an important question. Do the enrollment increases of 1975 signal a recovery from the influence of war and recession, or do they mask declining access to full-time college study among traditional college age youth? If the latter is true, then a decline in the effective cost of full-time study would stimulate increased attendance rates among traditional college age youth. Thus, as Howard Bowen observed, "If women attended college at the same rate as men, if low income people could attend at the same rate as high income people, if attendance rates were as high throughout the country as they are in leading states, enrollment would probably be increased by at least 6 or 7 million."

Footnotes and Supplementary Tables

Note: Tables refer to AASCU undergraduate enrollment

1 National Patterns 1969-1974

	Number of Institutions	Percentage of Institutions
Lost FTE Enrollment	76	30.7
Gained 0-20%	60	24.3
Gained 20-40%	48	19.5
Gained Over 40%	63	25.5
Total	**247**	**100.0**

2 Urban-Rural Attendance Patterns by 1974 Tuition and Fee Categories

	Tuition $0-200		$200-400		$400-600		$600+	
	Insts.	Miles[1]	Insts.	Miles[1]	Insts.	Miles[1]	Insts.	Miles[1]
Lost Enrollment	0	—	16	92	46	152	13	43
Gained Enrollment	14	0	34	51	71	46	53	27

[1]Average miles to city/county with population over 100,000.

3 Regional Part-Time Attendance Patterns 1969-1974

	East	South	Midwest	West
Percent of Part-time 1969	19.6	13.0	12.9	24.4
Percent of Part-time 1974	21.9	19.4	18.7	30.4
Rate of Increase (Percent)	**11.7**	**49.2**	**44.9**	**24.6**

4 Commuter Institution Enrollment Growth 1969-1974

	Declined	Increased 0-20%	Increased 20-40%	Increased More than 40%
Commuter Institutions	0	3	7	20

Definition: Commuter institution = At least 75 percent of enrollment accounted for by commuting and/or part-time students.

5
State College and University Undergraduate Enrollment Growth by Carnegie Institutional Type and Urban Location

Institutional Type	Percent of Urban	Percent of Gaining Enrollment	Percent of Regional Enrollment
East			
Doctoral	N/A	N/A	N/A
Comprehensive I	59	84	61
Comprehensive II	61	100	37
Liberal Arts I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liberal Arts II	20	100	2
South			
Doctoral	50	100	8
Comprehensive I	35	65	71
Comprehensive II	58	92	17
Liberal Arts I	0	0	1
Liberal Arts II	40	100	2
Midwest			
Doctoral	83	67	23
Comprehensive I	28	39	72
Comprehensive II	20	40	3
Doctoral Arts I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liberal Arts II	33	67	2
West			
Doctoral	66	67	10
Comprehensive I	59	68	82
Comprehensive II	11	22	8
Doctoral Arts I	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liberal Arts II	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note:
Institutions included in this table were limited to those named in the Carnegie Commission's *A Classification of Institutions of Higher Education*, and therefore do not account for all surveyed institutions. N-200

Carnegie Definitions:

Doctoral = Institutions awarding more than 10 PhDs annually.
Comprehensive I = Liberal Arts and at least two professional or occupational programs.
Comprehensive II = Liberal Arts and at least one professional or occupational program.
Doctoral Arts = Institutions scoring 5 or above on Astin Selectivity Index.
Liberal Arts II = All other liberal arts institutions.

6
Regional Patterns 1969-1974

Number of Institutions	East	South	Midwest	West	Total
Lost Enrollment	4	17	33	21	76
Gained Enrollment	56	58	27	31	171
Total	**60**	**75**	**60**	**52**	**247**
Percent Increase in FTE Enrollment	43.8	21.8	2.3	6.3	13.2

7
Urban Institutions as a Percent of Total Institutions 1969-1974

East		South		Midwest		West	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
38	63	33	44	25	42	24	46

8

Percent of High School Graduates Enrolling as First-Time Undergraduates

Fall 1968, By State

9

Education Commission of the States, et al. *State Postsecondary Education Profiles Handbook.* Denver, 1976.

10

Jay L. Chronister, E. Davis Martin, "Non-Resident Student Enrollment in State Institutions of Higher Education," Center for Higher Education, University of Virginia, 1975. p. 33.

"Carbone in a recent survey of 50 major state universities concluded, that differential tuition policies have had only a relatively slight effect on the admission of non-resident students" (at major public universities) . . . "however, such policies have affected the admission of non-residents in the smaller less prestigious state colleges. These institutions are now experiencing substantial declines in the enrollment of out-of-state students."

11

Age Distribution of College Students

Numbers in Thousands

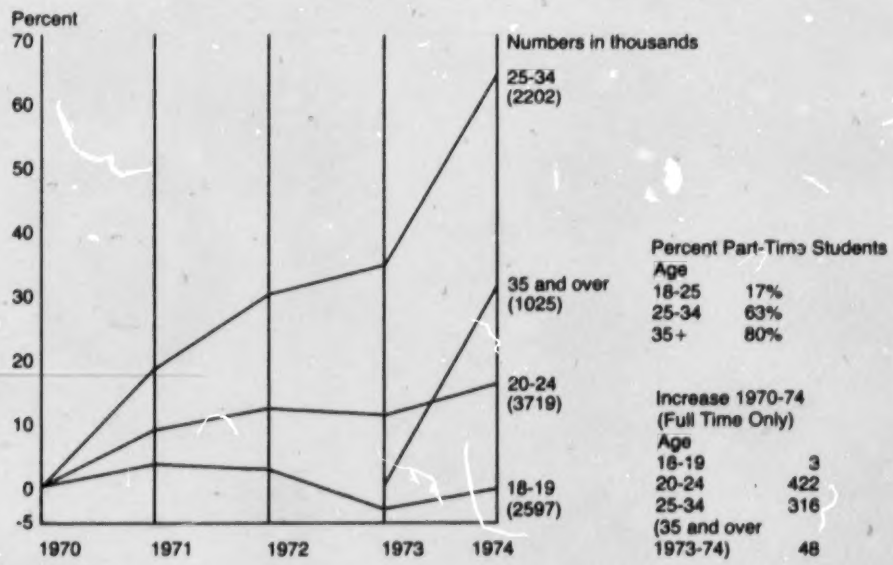
Sources:
American Council on Education, Policy Analysis Service based on U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20. No. 222, p. 12; No. 241, p. 15; No. 272, p. 16; and No. 278, p. 5 (Advance Report).

Age	1970 No.	1970 %	1971 No.	1971 %	1972 No.	1972 %	1973 No.	1973 %	1974 No.	1974 %
14-15	0	-	5	.1	5	.1	6	.1	5	.1
16-17	260	3.5	279	3.4	290	3.5	289	3.2	304	3.1
18-19	2,594	35.0	2,726	33.7	2,680	32.2	2,517	28.1	2,587	26.3
20-21	1,857	25.1	1,997	24.7	2,116	25.4	2,073	23.1	2,192	22.3
22-24	1,354	18.3	1,487	18.4	1,461	17.6	1,465	16.3	1,527	15.5
25-29	939	12.6	1,067	13.2	1,229	14.8	1,278	14.3	1,482	15.0
30-34	410	5.5	527	6.5	531	6.4	551	6.1	720	7.3
Subtotal							8,179	91.2	8,827	89.6
35 and over							787	8.8	1,025	10.4
Total	**7,413**	**100.0**	**8,087**	**100.0**	**8,313**	**100.0**	**8,966**	**100.0**	**9,852**	**100.0**

*Columns may not add to totals because of rounding.

Note: Enrollments reported in October of each year.

Source:
U.S. Census, *Current Population Reports* a[illegible] compiled by Americ[illegible] Council on Educatio[illegible]



12

Age Distribution of College Students

By Sex and Full-/Part-Time Status 1974

Numbers in Thousands

Sources:
American Council on Education, Policy Analysis Service based on Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 278 (Advance Report), 1975.

	Number			Percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 25						
Full-time	3,024	2,509	5,531	46	38	83
Part-time	532	561	1,094	8	8	17
Total	**3,556**	**3,070**	**6,625**	**54**	**46**	**100**
25-34						
Full-time	562	257	818	26	12	37
Part-time	809	574	1,384	37	26	63
Total	**1,371**	**831**	**2,202**	**62**	**38**	**100**
35 and over						
Full-time	NA	NA	205	NA	NA	20
Part-time	NA	NA	820	NA	NA	80
Total	**476**	**548**	**1,025**	**46**	**54**	**100**

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

13

U.S. Census data shows sharp decline in full-time college attendance among 18-24 year old dependent students.

Primary families with dependent members 18 to 24 years old and percent with members enrolled full time in college by family income

1973 Constant Dollars	1969	1973	Percent Rate of Change
Under $3,000	16.4	12.7	−22.6
$3,000-4,999	22.5	18.0	−20.0
$5,000-7,499	29.4	23.7	−19.4
$7,500-9,999	36.0	28.9	−19.7
$10,000-14,999	45.3	36.3	−19.9
$15,000 and Over	58.5	53.7	− 8.2
Total	**42.0**	**36.2**	**−13.8**
Median incomes of families with dependent enrolled	$13,638	$14,679	+ 7.6
Median incomes of all families with dependents	$11,272	$11,898	+ 5.5
Constant dollar gap	$ 2,366	$ 2,781	+17.5

Calculating based on U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Characteristics of American Youth: 1974". (U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, D.C., 1975). Current Population Reports Series P-23, No. 51.

14 See footnote 13.

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17 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment of High School Graduates and Dropouts." Special Labor Force Report 168, 1974.

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